

ABSTRACT

5 The present invention provides a method and system for providing contact
management to participants engaged in a communication session. The invention
permits chat session participants to a communication session to determine common
contacts that exists between the chat session participants. Dependent on the
accessibility of the particular chat session participants' contact list, other chat session
10 participants to the communication session can view the information located in the
contact list. Moreover, a particular chat session participant to the communication
session can give either a particular chat session participant or all the chat session
participants to the communication session permission to modify their contact list.
Permission to access or modify contact lists for chat session participants can be
15 defined prior to establishment of the communication session and/or changed during the
communication session. Changes relating to whether a particular contact list is
accessible and/or modifiable can be initiated by the chat session participant associated
with the contact list. Additionally, such changes can be initiated by a request from a
chat session participants to modify the contact records in a particular contact list. The
20 invention can be applicable to systems which can include, but is not limited to, chat
rooms, instant messaging, and call conferencing.